

Contractor Agency Description and Requirements (Exceeding State Foster Home Licensing Rules or Contract)

1. ADCS will be updating the www.azkidsneedu.gov website with contractor information. Describe your agency and its specialties. Include your agency website url and contact information. Do not exceed 500 words.

Arizona Partnership for Children, LLP (AzPaC) is a service delivery network of 3 community-based nonprofit organizations, including Catholic Charities Community Services, Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, Inc., and Devereux Arizona. AzPaC provides pre-service training, home study, and ongoing monitoring and support services for foster families across the State of Arizona. The program provides foster homes for children of all ages and many levels of care, which include: regular foster care, therapeutic (HCTC) foster care, respite care and relative (kinship) foster care. The Training program provides prospective foster families with a pre-service education series in preparation of becoming a foster home for children in custody of DCS. The foster care licensing/certification to adopt program provides support services including an assigned licensing worker, support functions and activities for the whole family, an annual training calendar with training opportunities each month, respite care and a 24 hour emergency contact number available to all families. AzPaC works with single, married, partnered, and nontraditional foster parents of any ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. AzPaC has locations across the State to serve the needs of children and families in Arizona.

2. List and describe in detail any specific agency requirements or expectations of your agency that exceed the State foster home licensing rules or the requirements within this contract. This may include additional requirements regarding pets or pool fences, for example. Also include anything that may be considered added value, such as offering additional respite hours or a faith-based perspective.

Name of Additional Requirement or Expectation	Is this Required? Yes or No	Reason
AzPaC – DEVEREUX ARIZONA		
Training - Working with Children and Challenging Sexual Behaviors (4 hrs)	Yes – We require them to get this one-time training some time during	To give FPs additional understanding of sexualized behavior and strategies for preventing/managing sexual acting out behavior.

	their first year of licensure.	
Training – Question, Persuade, refer (1 hr.)	Yes – We require them to get this one-time training some time during their first year of licensure.	To give FPs increased awareness of signs a person may be suicidal as well as prevention strategies.
Training – Corporate Compliance and HIPAA	Required by Devereux	To ensure FPs are compliant with legal and ethical standards around business practices and client confidentiality.
Travel Policy - Prior to travel, FPs will have in their possession: emergency contact information for the client, a photo of the client taken within the last year, a list of current medications, client medical insurance card, and travel authorization letter from CPS or Legal Guardian (as applicable). The FPs will review this packet with their assigned Specialist or designee for completeness and final approval prior to travel. This approval process is evidenced by the completion of the “Devereux Provider Travel Check List.”	Yes	To ensure FPs have appropriate approvals prior to travel and have documentation to assist them in a client emergency during travel.
Babysitter Approval - Person	Required by	To ensure FPs leave the children in the care of appropriate individuals. We were

identified by the FP must undergo a Criminal Background check including: fingerprinting, CPS-CR check, and Criminal History Affidavit.	Devereux	concerned that the law passed by the State exposes the FP and us an organization to liability risk because it gives FPs the ability to leave their children with anyone they choose as long as they notify DCS within certain timeframes.
Placement Guidelines for Age/Ratio - A maximum of 3 children under age 6 regardless of status as bio, adoptive, foster, etc. A maximum of 2 children under the age of 1 per licensed caregiver regardless of status as bio, adoptive, foster, etc.	Required by Devereux	To ensure appropriate levels of supervision and minimize the likelihood that incidents may occur due to supervision demands.
Placement Guidelines for Gender - Children 12 years and older will not be placed in homes having other children (foster, bio, adoptive, etc.) of the opposite gender. Exceptions made for siblings.	Required by Devereux	To minimize the likelihood of sexual incidents within the foster home.
Immunizations – FPs must immunize their own children.	Required by Devereux	As a public health consideration due to the law saying FPs can foster children ages 6 and above even if the FP chooses not to immunize their own children.
Medical Marijuana –Devereux will not license anyone who uses marijuana under any circumstances, or who has a	Required by Devereux	The law allows people with a medical marijuana card to use medical marijuana. Until a policy comes out stating otherwise, licensure is not precluded by being a medical marijuana user. Devereux believes this is a public health issue as well as a liability/risk issue.

household member who does.		
Public Records Checks – Done as part of initial and renewal licensure for all adult household members.	Required by Devereux	To take additional steps of ensuring a lack of criminal history that would impact their suitability as a FP. We have found many instances of people that passed their fingerprint clearance, yet had significant criminal history.
MVD checks – Done as part of initial and renewal licensure for all licensed providers and for any household members and babysitters who would transport foster children.	Required by Devereux	To ensure the safety of our clients by confirming a clean driving record.
Attestation Statements of Sexual Boundaries and DCS Involvement History – Signed forms at initial and renewal licensure.	Required by Devereux	To ensure our FPs have an understanding of appropriate boundaries and a lack of DCS involvement. Devereux feels these are items that are not effectively covered otherwise in the State-mandated licensure process.
Unannounced Home Visits – Done at least 1X per year.	Recommended but not required by OLR. Devereux requires at least 1 per year or 3 attempts per year	To provide a more “true” picture of the household for a home visit.
Inclusion of information related to SIDS, MRSA and the Flu in Pre-service training materials	Required by Devereux	Public health consideration.
5 Rules of Assistance with the Self-Administration of Medication	Required by	To assist FPs in their awareness and understanding around approved practices with

provided as a refrigerator magnet	Devereux	regard to giving clients in their care prescribed medications.
AzPaC – CATHOLIC CHARITIES COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Vaccination policy	Yes	CCCS believes that it is in the best interest of our families, as well as foster children, to have all biological and adopted children in the home be up to date on vaccinations.
Additional eligibility requirements	Yes	Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, CCCS accepts applications from a married man and woman, as well as single, non-cohabiting individuals. Married applicants must be married a minimum of one year. Case-by-case exceptions regarding length of marriage can be made with director approval.
Bankruptcy discharged at least 1 year prior to licensure	Yes	This allows CCCS to properly evaluate an applicant's financial stability. Case-by-case exceptions regarding the length of time since discharge can be made with director approval.
DMV driving records	Yes	Families are responsible for providing Department of Motor Vehicle Records upon entering the program & at license renewal. This applies to foster parents and anyone 18 years and older providing transportation for any foster child.
Daycare business not allowed in the foster home	Yes	Due to ratio requirements with Article 58, CCCS states that applicants cannot provide daycare out of their homes. Case-by-case exceptions can be made with director approval- particularly in rural areas.

Respite policy		Each CCCS foster family is offered a minimum of 168 hours, or 7 days, of respite coverage each fiscal year (July 1-June 30). An additional 72 hours or 3 days can be approved by the Child Welfare Director on an emergency basis only.
Faith based perspective		Foster care has been a part of Catholic Charities' mission for more than 80 years, growing naturally from the belief that every child has the right to the love, protection and care of a strong and committed family. Our faith teaches us that strong families make strong communities- we leverage parish and community support to provide assistance and support to all of our foster families. Parishes host back-to-school drives and Christmas parties to benefit foster children and their foster families. Additionally, we are able to leverage the support of parishes to form specific foster care ministries dedicated recruiting new foster families.
AzPaC – CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA, INC.		
No additional requirements		